

the Declaration of Rights, and two weeks later a Form of Government. Both were presented to the Convention by George Plater, suggesting that he may have acted as a subcommittee on style to do the final polishing.

The initial draft of the Declaration of Rights has been attributed to Charles Carroll, Barrister.⁵⁴ If so, it is interesting to note that at the Middle Temple in London he was a friend of Thompson Mason, son of George Mason, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights.⁵⁵ For the reasons already noted, the Barrister resigned from the Convention on August 27, the day the draft was submitted, as did Samuel Chase, another Committee member. The Committee vacancies were filled August 30 by Robert Townshend Hooe of Charles County, and Thomas Johnson who had that same day made his appearance as a Delegate from Caroline County.

Little is known of the early life of Hooe, the youngest member of the Committee. He probably had legal training, as he had earlier served on an admiralty committee composed exclusively of lawyers. His interests later drew him to Alexandria, Virginia, where he owned privateers during the Revolution and later gained wealth as a merchant and landowner. He was Mayor of Alexandria from 1780 to 1782, and Sheriff of Fairfax County in 1790. In 1801 he was one of those whom President John Adams appointed Justice of the Peace for the District of Columbia during his last night in office, too late for the commissions to be delivered. When President Jefferson and Secretary of State Madison withheld his commission, he joined as plaintiff with William Marbury to force its delivery, giving rise to the famous case of *Marbury v. Madison*.

⁵⁴ George A. Hanson, *Old Kent: The Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Balto., 1876), 146; Rowland, *Charles Carroll of Carrollton*, II, 190.

⁵⁵ 31 *Md. Hist. Mag.* (1936) 316.

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